

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SUVA 00585 01 OF 04 111438Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-05 CEQ-01 ERDA-07 COME-00 EB-07

EPA-04 IO-13 NSF-02 OES-07 FEAE-00 INT-05 AF-10

ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 CG-00 ACDA-10 DHA-02 DLOS-09

OPIC-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGR-10 DOTE-00 CU-04 /201 W

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R 100400Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6095

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 4 SUVA 0585

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FJ

SUBJECT: FIJI PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH AT ASNE CONVENTION

1. FIJI PRIMIN RATU SIR KAMISESE MARA ADDRESSED
THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF AMERICAN SOCIETY OF NEWSPAPER

EDITORS IN HONOLULU ON MAY 4, 1977. FOLLOWING IS TEXT
OF SPEECH, WHICH COVERS WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS INCLUDING
FIJI'S ATTITUDE TOWARD DEVELOPMENT, RELATIONS BETWEEN
EEC AND ACP COUNTRIES, ROLE OF THE PRESS IN DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES, APPRECIATION OF TRADITIONAL METHODS AND
PRACTICES OF ISLAND CULTURES AND HIS PHILOSOPHY OF
THE PACIFIC WAY.

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PAGE 02 SUVA 00585 01 OF 04 111438Z

2. BEGIN TEXT:

I AM VERY HONOURED TO BE INVITED TO ADDRESS THIS DISTINGUISHED
GATHRING TODAY, ESPECIALLY AS I UNKDERSTAND THAT IT IS THE FIRST
TIME THAT YOU HAVE HELD YOUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE OUTSIDE WASHING-
TON. I SHALL RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO PARODY A SPANISH RESORT

WHICH SAID "IF THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU VISIT THIS TOWN,
YOU'RE WELCOME TO IT": I AM ALWAYS CERTAINLY DELIGHTED TO COME
TO HAWAII WITH ITS FRIENDLY INFORMALITY AND I'S PLEASED TO STAY
JUST AS LONG AS THE PUTTS ARE DROPPING.

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE PURPOSE OF YOUR CHOICE OF
VENUE IS TO TRY TO GET SOME IDEA OF WHAT GOES ON IN THE PACIFIC.
I WOULD THEREFORE BE LESS THAN HUMAN IF I FAILED TO POINT OUT
THAT YOU HAVE ONLY COME HALF WAY. BUT THEN, IF YOU'RE PREPARED
TO COME HALF WAY, THEN THE LEAST I CAN OFFER TO DO IS THE S/3.
I HOPE THE JUNCTION OF OUR WAYS WILL BE A HAPPY ONE.

AS YOU LOOK OUT OF YOUR HTEL ROMS ON TO THE SEA,
YOU WILL SEE THE GREATEST SINGLE FACTOR IN THE PACIFIC
ENVIRONMENT - THE PACIFIC OCEAN. IT IS VAST - AND REMEMBER
YOU'RE JUST LOOKING AT THE TOP OF IT. I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER
THIS VASTNESS WHILE I SPEAK BRIEFLY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND
POLLUTION. USUALLY WHEN WE SPEAK OF THE GAP BETWEEN DEVELOPED
AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, WE ARE THINKING PURELY OF THE ECONOMIC
GAP. BUT I THINK THERE IS A BIG ENVIRONMENTAL GAP TOO - OR
RATHER A GAP IN THE STRESS WE LAY ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS.
AND, OF COURSE, IN THE END IT IS RELATED TO ECONOMICS. MANY
DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FIND IT A MATTER OF SERIOUS CONCERN WHERE
THE EFFECT OF ACTIVITY OR EXPLOITATION OF RESOURCES CAUSES
POLLUTION. THIS WE FULLY UNDERSTAND, THIS WE SYMPATHISE WITH,
BUT HIS SUCH COUNTRIES CAN AFFORD. ON THE OTHER HAND
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE FAR MORE CONCERNED AT PRESENT WITH
THE EXPLOITATION OF RESOURCES AND HAVE NOT YET REACHED THE
STATE OF GIVING GREAT PRIORITY TO POLLUTION.
WE DO TAKE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS INTO ACCOUNT, AND WE DO

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SUVA 00585 01 OF 04 111438Z

HAVE A NATIONAL TRUST FOR FIJI. BUT WE FEEL THAT ON THE SMALL
SCALE OUR INDUSTRIES RUN, POLLUTION HAZARDS ARE SMALL. REMEMBER
WHAT I SAID ABOUT THE SIZE OF THE PACIFIC OCEAN. IT HAS
TREMENDOUS ABSORPTION POTENTIAL. ANY DETRIMENT WOULD BE ALMOST
ENTIRELY SUFFERED BY OURSELVES, AND WOULD NOT EXTEND TO OTHER
COUNTRIES. AFTER ALL, SEWAGE MAY HARM THE IMMEDIATE
ENVIRONMENT, BUT THE ORGANIC MATTER IN THE DEEP SEA NOURISHES
THE PLANKTON WHICH NOURISHES THE FISH WHICH MAY TURN UP ON
YOUR BREAKFAST TABLE. WHILE THEREFORE WE ARE NOT EXACTLY
SAYING, "ALLOW US TO GO TO HELL IN OUR OWN WAY", WE DO CLAIM
THE RIGHT TO MAKE THESE DECISIONS FOR OURSELVES. WELL MEANING
ADVICE WE WILL TOLERATE - PERHAPS EVEN LISTEN TO, BUT THE
DECISION WHICH, - 285# 9 -.6 \$3:8 89, , IS A MATTER OF
BALANCE, MUST REST WITH US.

VERY DIFFERENT IN OUR VIEW ARE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS,
WHOSE EFFECTS ARE DETERMINABLE OVER VAST AREAS AND SHOW UP IN
TESTS OF MILK ETC. EVEN IF AT A LOW PERCENTAGE. AS YOU ALL
KNOW, THERE IS A GREAT UNITED NATIONS EDIFICE SET UP ON
POLLUTION AND THE ENVIRONMENT, AND THOUGH WE PROBABLY ALL

SUBSCRIBE TO IT IN THEORY, A BREATH OF REALISM IS REQUIRED
HERE AND THERE. IT DOES TEND TO CARRY ECHOES OF YOUR
DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN MARK TWAIN'S WORDS "NOTHING SO MUCH
NEEDS REFORMING AS OTHER PEOPLE'S HABITUS". BUT AS THE PRESS
OF THE WORLD AND PARTICULARLY THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES
ARE PREDOMINANTLY THE PRODUCT OF THE DEVELOPED NATIONS, ONE
TENDS TO HEAR MUCH MORE THESE DAYS ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS
THAN DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES. AND I BELIEVE IT IS
HAMPERING DEVELOPMENT IN MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

THIS BRINGS ME TO MY SECOND PROPOSITION WHICH IS
ABOUT THE THIRD WORLD PRESS. AND AS NEWSMEN YOU WILL BE WELL
AWARE OF THE CONCERN BEING SHOWN BY THE THIRD WORLD THAT
THEY ARE MISREPRESENTED IN THE PRESS. AND YOU WILL DOUBTLESS
ALL HAVE SEEN THE PRESS RELEASE EMANATING FROM THE NEW DELHI
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF INFORMATION OF THE NON-ALIGNED
COUNTRIES. AS, HOWEVER, I MENTIONED DURING MY ADDRESS TO THE
UNITED NATIONS LAST YEAR, THERE ARE ALWAYS DANGERS IN HOLDING
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PAGE 04 SUVA 00585 01 OF 04 111438Z

MEETINGS OF THIS KIND WITH COMPLETE OMISSION OF NATIONS AT

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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SUVA 00585 02 OF 04 110033Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6096
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 4 SUVA 0585

DIFFERENT LEVELS OF DEVELOPMENT. ONE HAS FAR MORE CHANCE OF ACHIEVING SOMETHING IF ALL CATEGORIES ARE REPRESENTED. THE RESULT WAS THAT THE MEETING BEGAN BY BLAMING EVERYONE EXCEPT OURSELVES, AND IT WAS ONLY WHEN IT CAME TO THE CONCLUSION, AND DECISIONS WERE BEING LISTED, THAT THERE WAS A TACIT ADMISSION THAT PERHAPS THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAD NOT DONE ALL THAT THEY COULD HAVE DONE ON THEIR OWN BEHALF, AND THAT THERE WERE A GOOD NUMBER OF POSITIVE STEPS WHICH COULD BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION.

AND SO THERE WILL BE A NON-ALIGNED PRESS AGENCIES POOL, MUCH MORE CONSULTATION, PROMOTION OF CONTACTS ETC. AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THEY WILL ALL HELP IN SOME WAY OR ANOTHER. ALL THIS SAID, I WOULD JUST LIKE TO GIVE A LITTLE CONCRETE EXAMPLE OF THE WAY SUCH AGENCIES WORK. I SENT MY MINISTER FOR INFORMATION TO INDIA LAST YEAR EXPRESSLY TO STUDY THEIR INFORMATION SERVICES AND PRESS LAWS. HE MADE A POINT OF HAVING A LOOK AT SUBJECT FILES BY COUNTRIES.. FOR FIJI THERE WERE VERY FEW EXTRACTS BUT ONE CONCERNED FENCING BY FIJIAN

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 SUVA 00585 02 OF 04 110033Z

LANDOWNERS AGAINST INDIAN TENANTS, ANOTHER GAVE PUBLICITY TO THE FIJIAN NATIONALIST PARTY AND ITS RACIST VIEWS, AND ANOTHER HIGHLIGHTED A MISGUIDED SPEECH BY A FIJIAN PARLIAMENTARIAN TALKING ABOUT REPATRIATION OF INDIANS TO INDIA. ALL THESE ISOLATED INCIDENTS ARE VERY CLEARLY CONTRARY TO OUR COUNTRY'S POLICY OF MUTUAL TOLERANCE, GOODWILL AND HARMONY. BUT NOT ONLY WERE THEY HIGHLIGHTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES - WHICH PERHAPS ONE MUST EXPECT - BUT THEY WERE ALMOST THE ONLY ITEMS THEY HAD SENT ABOUT FIJI. NOTHING ABOUT OUR EXPANDING ECONOMY, NOTHING ABOUT OUR DEVELOPMENT PLANS, NOTHING ABOUT OUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL FORUMS LIKE THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE AND THE LOME CONVENTION. ONE OF THE BIGGEST HEADLINES FIJI EVER HAD IN THE LONDON TIMES WAS WHEN SOMEONE FORGED A SENATOR'S SIGNATURE ON A TELEGRAPH FORM TO SUBMIT HIS RESIGNATION. SO I AM NOT JUST MOUTHING PLATITUDES AND FOLLOWING A POPULAR CANARD.

BUT WE ARE DOING SOMETHING ABOUT THIS, AND I APPEAL TO THIS CONFERENCE AS A BODY OF RESPONSIBLE JOURNALISTS. DON'T JUST ACCEPT WHAT ITS AGENCIES HAND OUT. MAKE ENQUIRIES. SEE IF THEY CAN'T DO BETTER. ASK ABOUT ACHIEVEMENTS AS WELL AS FAILURES. WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT WITH THE INCREASING RECOGNITION OF TRUE INTERDEPENDENCE THERE WILL BE AN INCREASE IN MUTUAL RESPECT, WHICH WILL BE REFLECTED IN EACH OTHER'S REPORTING OF EACH OTHER'S COUNTRY. AFTER ALL THIS IS NOT ALL ONE-SIDED. IT IS NEWSPAPER REPORTING THAT GIVES SOME OF US OUR VIEWS ON YOUR AMERICAN CIVILISATION AND IT IS NOT ALWAYS VERY FLATTERING.

AT THE MOMENT WE HAVE BEEN HAVING A BIT OF A TOURIST RECESSION IN FIJI. ALTHOUGH OF COURSE IT PRESENTS ITS PROBLEMS

IN EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMICS, THERE IS SOMETHING TO BE SAID FOR A SHORT BREATHING SPACE TO ENABLE US TO CONSOLIDATE AND TAKE STOCK. IT GIVES US A CHANCE TO ASSESS WHAT CAN HAPPEN TO FIJI IF WE CARRY ON AS WE ARE GOING - THAT IS TO SAY IF WE CAN ATTRACT THE CAPITAL FOR THE HOTEL PLANT. WE COULD END UP WITH OUR POPULATION OF SOME 600,00 GEARED TO LOOKING AFTER 2-3M. TOURISTS AND AN ECONOMY PREDOMINANTLY BEAMED THIS WAY. AS THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SUVA 00585 02 OF 04 110033Z

FINANCE WOULD BE COMING FROM OVERSEAS, THE OVERSEAS INVESTORS WOULD WANT TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND SOUND DEPLOYMENT OF THEIR CAPITAL. AND THIS IN TURN, AT LEAST IN THEIR VIEW, TENDS TO MEAN OVERSEAS EXPATRIATE MANAGEMENT. AND WHO WOULD BLAME THEM? WE ALREADY HAVE A LOT OF EXPATRIATE MANAGEMENT, JUST AS HERE IN HAWAII YOU HAVE A LOT OF MAINLAND MANAGEMENT.

THEN THE CULINARY SERVICES ARE GEARED TO THE SAME CRITERIA. THIS MEANS VAST MENUS, PROBABLY WRITTEN IN FRENCH, WHICH CAN ONLY BE PREPARED BY AN INTERNATIONAL CHEF - PROBABLY FROM EUROPE. THIS IN TURN MEANS SO MUCH FOOD HAS TO BE IMPORTED FROM OUTSIDE, AS IT IS NOT AVAILABLE AT HOME. LOCAL FOODS AND FISH ARE AT A PREMIUM, AND EVEN THEN THEY ARE OFTEN COOKED IN A CONTINENTAL MANNER I AM OFTEN DISAPPOINTED EVEN IN AMERICA TO FIND I CANNOT GET CALIFORNIAN WINES, FOR ALL THAT THEY ARE SO GOOD. ALL THIS MEANS THAT IF WE THINK THAT BY PUSHING TOURISM FOR ALL WE ARE WORTH, WE ARE GOING TO ACHIEVE THE MAXIMUM OF LOCALISATION - AND BY THAT I MEAN, OF COURSE, LOCALISATION IN THE TOP POSTS - THEN WE'RE IN FOR A BIG DISAPPOINTMENT. EVEN THE COMMODITIES BOUGHT AND SOLD MUST CATER FOR THE TASTES OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY.

AND YET SOME COUNTRIES SEEM TO HAVE SUCCEEDED WELL IN RETAINING THEIR OWN CULTURES INCLUDING THIS VERY IMPORTANT ONE OF FOOD. AND I WOULD INSTANCE THE CHINESE. THEIR FOOD PATTERNS AND STYLES OF INGREDIENTS AND COOKING HAVE LASTED DOWN THE CENTURIES - INDEED SOMETIMES ONE THINKS SOME OF THE MATERIALS HAVE. I HAVE CERTAINLY BEEN OFFERED "HUNDRED YEAR OLD EGGS" IN SINGAPORE. OLID IS NOT NECESSARILY BAD. I READ THE OTHER DAY OF A SUNDIAL EXHIBITED FOR SALE IN A LONDON ANTIQUE SHOP. THE PLACARD READ "MADE 1747 - STILL KEEPS GOOD TIME".

I BELIEVE, FOR EXAMPLE, IN FIJI THAT THERE ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH FOOD RESOURCES FOR US ALL, IF WE CAN ONLY REDISCOVER ALL THE VARIETIES OF FOOD AVAILABLE FROM LAND OR SEA. IN SOME CASES IT MAY ONLY BE NECESSARY TO ELEVATE ITS STATUS AND PUBLICISE ITS NUTRITIONAL VALUE. I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS IN ENGLAND HEARING SOMEONE SAY THAT THE HERRING WOULD BE A DELICACY IF IT WERE NOT SO CHEAP. AND DURING THE WAR THE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SUVA 00585 02 OF 04 110033Z

PEOPLE OF BRITIAN WERE URGED TO EAT CARROTS AS THE VITAMIN
C CONTENT WOULD HELP THEM TO SEE IN THE BLACKOUT.

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UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SUVA 00585 03 OF 04 110043Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 AID-05 CEQ-01 ERDA-07 COME-00 EB-07
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FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6097
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC

UNCLAS SECTION 3 OF 4 SUVA 0585

OF COURSE, WE ARE NOT JUST PREACHING A RETURN TO THE OLD WAYS -
THERE ARE MANY NEW AND HELPFUL AGRICULTURAL TECHNIQUES WHICH
WE WILL PROMOTE. AND WE WILL DIRECT TO SUCH FOODS GOME OF THE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH WHICH HAS TO DATE BEEN SO HEAVILY WEIGHTED
IN FAVOUR OF EXPORT CROPS. COCONUT RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS,
TEA RESEARCH CENTRES, SUGAR RESEARCH STATIONS, COFFEE RESEARCH
ORGANIZATIONS - YOU CAN FIND THEM DOTTED ROUND THE WORLD. BUT
HOW MANY INSTITUTIONS SPECIALISE IN THE VARIOUS VARIETIES OF
DALO OR YAMS? AND YET THE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE WHO EAT THESE
ROOT CROPS ARE NOT INISIGNIFICANT. THERE ARE THE INDONESIANS,
PHILIPPINES, COUNTRIES IN SOUTH EAST ASIA, THE WEST INDIES AND
AFRICA. THEY RUN INTO HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS. AGAIN, NO NEED
TO TALK OF THE VIRTUES OF TARO IN HAWAII. RECENT WRITINGS
HAVE SHOWN HORRIFYING EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE PUSHED BY AID AGENCIES
INTO DEVELOPING EXPORT CROPS OR PRODUCTS AT THE EXPENSE OF
THEIR OWN DIET - AND EVEN EXPORTING THEIR OWN NATURAL PROTEIN
FOR CASH TO BUY IMPORTED PROCESSED PROTEIN. WE ARE RESOLVED
TO AVOID THIS DANGER. AND I MUST SAY HERE THAT ONE OF THE
MOST INTERESTING MORNINGS I EVER SPENT IN HAWAII WAS AT A
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SUVA 00585 03 OF 04 110043Z

HAWAIIAN FISH FARM. IT WAS - AND I HOPE STILL IS - RUN IN THE OLD TRADITIONAL WAY WITH AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM OF LABOUR AND SIMPLE EFFECTIVE TECHNIQUES. BUT IT DOES TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE MOST UP TO DATE FERTILIZER TO FEED THE FISH, AND TRANSPORT AND MARKETING METHODS ARE TODAY'S. THE OWNER OF THAT FARM MUST BE A HAPPY MAN - HE IS PRESERVING A TRADITIONAL SKILL, HE IS SUPPLYING PEOPLE WITH A COMMODITY THEY WANT AND NEED - AND HE IS MAKING MONEY. HOW MANY OF US CAN SAY WE ARE DOING ALL THESE THREE?

THIS VERY SORT OF THING HAS BEEN INSTANCED TO ME HERE IN HAWAII AT ONE OF THE MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE EAST WEST CENTRE, WHICH I FIND SO STIMULATING AND SO

REWARDING. THERE IS ONLY ONE STATISTIC OF WHICH I AM ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN AND ON WHICH I DEFY REFUTATION. IF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO GO TO SLEEP IN CHURCH WERE LAID END TO END - THEY WOULD BE VERY MUCH MORE COMFORTABLE. THAT SAID, I SHALL VENTURES TO QUOTE JUST ONE OR TWO FIGURES I LEARNED AT THE CENTRE. IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT ONE DEVELOPING COUNTRY IMPORTS SOME 386,000 TONS OF RICE ANNUALLY AT A COST OF \$113M. US. OF COURSE, IT GROWS RICE FOR ITSELF BUT PEST LOSSES PRE-HARVEST, POST-HARVEST AND DURING THE THRESHING, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE PERIODS ARE RECKONED TO RUN TO 40 PERCENT. IF RESEARCH AND CONSEQUENT ACTION COULD REDUCE THIS LOSS FROM PESTS TO 10 PERCENT THERE WOULD BE A SAVING OF SOME \$57M US.

SHARING AND CARING ARE PART AND PARCEL OF THE PACIFIC WAY. IF WE CAN GROW AND PRODUCE ENOUGH TO FEED OURSELVES, OF COURSE WE SAVE FOREIGN EXCHANGE FOR IMPORTS, AND I AM SURE WE BENEFIT FROM A BETTER DIET; BUT IT ALSO MEANS THAT WHAT WE DO NOT IMPORT BECOMES AVAILABLE TO GO TO COUNTRIES NOT SIMILARLY BLESSED WITH FERTILITY AND CLIMATE LIKE OUR OWN. IT WOULD MEAN THAT THERE WOULD BE MORE RICE FOR THE RICE EATERS.

AMERICA IS NEARLY 200 YEARS AHEAD OF US IN ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE. THAT'S A LONG TIME AND IT MEANS THAT YOU HAVE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SUVA 00585 03 OF 04 110043Z

TO BE DEPENDENT ON THE HISTORY BOOKS FOR YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE BEFORE AND AFTER IT ARRIVED AND CHANGES IT BROUGHT. BUT WE HAVE LIVED THROUGH IT. THERE IS ALSO THE MAJOR DIFFERENCE THAT YOU HAD TO FIGHT FOR YOUR INDEPENDENCE AGAINST A TENACIOUS METROPOLITAN POWER BENT ON RETAINING ITS EMPIRE, WEALTH AND INFLUENCE. WE WERE DEALING WITH THE SAME METROPOLITAN POWER (AND IN PASSING I NOTE HAWAII AND FIJI BOTH RETAIN THE UNION FLAG AS PART OF OUR OWN FLAGS),

BUT IN OUR CASE SHE WAS READY TO SEIZE ON THE FIRST STRAW
FLATING ON THE BREEZE OF CHANGE;AND, IF I MAY CHANGE MY
METAPHOR, GET HERSELF OFF THE COLONIAL HOOK AT THE UNITED
NATIONS. INDEED SUCH EARLIER PROGRESS TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE
AS WE MADE WAS MORE AT THE PROMPTING OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
THAN OUR OWN. AT THE OUTSET WE WERE THE RELUCTANT DIVORCEE,
THOUGH IN THE END WE HERPAHS TOOK THE BIT BETWEEN OUR TEETH.
AND AT ANY RATE THERE WAS A VERY SATISFACTORY SEPARATION
SETTLEMENT. AND FINALLY, WE HAD NO INTERNAL CONFLICT ON THE
INDEPENDENCE ISSUE IN THAT THE OPPOSITION PARTY WERE AGREEABLE
THAT WE SHOULD PROCEED TO INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT A GENERAL
ELECTION. OUR ALLIANCE PARTY ACCEPTED THE HEGEMONY WITH GOOD
GRACE AND THE OPPOSITION HAVE BEEN GENTLEMANLY ENOUGH TO HAVE
IT WITH US FOR A LONG TIME.

ONE OF THE BIG DIFFERENCES WE FOUND - PERHAPS WE CAN
TAKE A LITTLE CREDIT AND SAY WE INSTITUTED - WAS TO GET AWAY
FROM THE IDEA OF PLANNING IMPOSED FROM ON TOP- WELL MEANING
AS IT DOUBTLESS WAS. THIS WAS PARTICULARLY TRUE WITH RURAL
DEVELOPMENT, WHERE, PRIOR TO INDEPENDENCE, YOUNG AND
ENTHUSIASTIC CADETS FROM BRITIAN, TAKING UP THE WHITE MAN'S
BURDEN, WERE ONLY TO READY TO TELL THEIR PARISHIONERS WHAT
WAS GOOD FOR THEM. IT MIGHT BE CONCRETE SLAB LATIRINES, IT
MIGHT BE CONCRETE CRICKET PITCHES, BUT THEY KNEW BEST. NOW
WITH OUR RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN PARTICULAR, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE
TO SET THE FINANCIAL CEILING, WE LEAVE THE SELECTION OF
PRIORITIES TO THE PEOPLE OF THE DISTRICT THEMSELVES. IT IS

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 01 SUVA 00585 04 OF 04 110129Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC

UNCLAS SECTION 4 OF 4 SUVA 0585

FOR THEM TO LIST THEIR NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS, AND, IN DISCUSSION WITH THEIR NEIGHBOURS, IN A SPIRIT OF GIVE AND TAKE, AGREE ON A PRIORITY LIST. OF COURSE, GOVERNMENT IS ALWAYS READY TO HELP WITH TECHNICAL ADVICE AND SO ON, BUT OTHERWISE THE DECISION IS THEIRS. IT IS A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLE OF PARTICIPATION.

BUT WHILE WE ENCOURAGE SUCH PARTICIPTION WE HAVE TO WATCH THAT IT DOES NOT END UP IN AIMLESS UNDIRECTED LIVING - AND INDEED THAT WHAT IS CALLED THE PERMISSIVE SOCIETY DOES NOT TAKE OVER. FOR TRAINING OF YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER DISCIPLINE HAS ALWAYS BEEN PART OF OUR TRADITIONAL LIFE STYLE. IT USED TO BE THE CUSTOM TO GATHER THE YOUNG MEN INTO WHAT WE CALLED THE BURE-NI-SA WHERE THEY COULD RECEIVE TUITION FROM THE ACKNOWLEDGED EXPERTS IN PLANING, FISHING, HOMEBUILDING ETC. AND WHO COULD AT THE SAME TIME BE A VERY USEFUL MOBILE WORK FORCE.

AFTER A LONG BREAK WE ARE COMING BACK TO VARIOUS FIRMS OF DISCIPLINED TRAINING FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE. WITH AID FROM NEW ZEALAND WE HAVE ESTABLISHED A TRADE TRAINING SCHOOL UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE ROYAL FIJI MILITARY FORCES WHERE MEN UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SUVA 00585 04 OF 04 110129Z

ARE GIVEN SKILLS IN HOUSEHOLDING, SIMPLE MECHANICS AND SO ON WHICH ENABLE THEM EITHER TO TAKE UP EMPLOYMENT IN THE URBAN CENTRES OR TO RETURN TO THEIR VILLAGES WHERE THEIR TECHNIQUES AND KNOW HOW CAN BE OF REAL ASSISTANCE FAR FROM THE BIG CENTRES.

THEN AFTER ONE OF OUR HURRICANES WE WERE GREATLY IMPRESSED WITH THE WORK OF THE NEW ZEALAND ARMY IN PREHABILITATION AND REBUILDING. AND SO WE HAVE ALSO FORMED A RURAL DEVELOPMENT UNIT OF THE ROYAL FIJI MILITARY FORCES WHO ARE GIVEN DISCIPLINED TRAINING AND ARE AVAILABLE TO DO NUMBERS OF MORE LARGE-SCALE CONSTRUCTION WORKS WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE A LONG TIME TO WAIT BEFORE THEY WERE REACHED. WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO EXTENDING THE WORK OF THE UNIT TO AGRICULTURE. A BOYSTOWN PROJECT TOO, RECENTLY OPENED, WILL HELP SOME MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY WHO WOULD HAVE BEEN CARED FOR UNDER THE OLDS WAYS BUT NOW SOMETIMES DROP OUT OF THE MODERN EDUCATION SYSTEM.

SO IN SOME WAYS IT MAY BE THOUGHT WE ARE GOING IN TWO DIAMETRICALLY OPPOSED DIRECTIONS. FIRST WE ALLOW MUCH MORE DISCUSSION AND PARTICIPATION AND THEN WE REINTRODUCE DISCIPLINED TRAINING. I DO NOT BELIEVE THESE ARE INCOMPATIBLE. I BELIEVE WE NEED THEM BOTH AND THAT IF A FACT WITH CARE THEY CAN BE MADE NOT ONLY COMPATIBLE BUT COMPLEMENTARY.

IT IS A RETURN TO THE OLD CHRISTIAN PARADOX WHERE "SERVICE IS PERFECT FREEDOM".

AND FINALLY, THERE IS A LOT OF TALK THESE DAYS ABOUT THE NEW ECONOMIC WORLD ORDER. IT IS A CONCEPT WHICH NO ONE WITH ANY PERCEPTION, WITH ANY SENSE OF JUSTICE, WITH ANY SYMPATHY OR WITH ANY MORAL VALUES CAN DO OTHER THAN SUPPORT. BUT IT

IS A HIGH SOUNDING PHRASE, AND IF WE LIKED WE COULD GO ON DISCUSSING THE PHILOSOPHY FOR A VERY LONG TIME. I AM AFRAID THIS IS WHAT TENDS TO HAPPEN AT CONFERENCES - PARTICULARLY WHEN PERHAPS ONLY ONE ASPECT OF THE SPECTRUM IS PRESENT. YOU MAY WELL KNOW THE DEFINITION OF A CONFERENCE WHICH SAYS "A CONFERENCE IS A GATHERING OF IMPORTANT PEOPLE WHO SINGLY CAN DO NOTHING, BUT WHO TOGETHER CAN DECIDE THAT NOTHING CAN BE DONE.". BUT THERE ARE AREAS IN WHICH WE ARE BEGINNING TO SEE SIGNS OF SUCCESS IN THIS REALIGNMENT OF RESOURCES. OF SPECIAL INTEREST
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SUVA 00585 04 OF 04 110129Z

AND CONCERN TO US IN THE PACIFIC IS THE LOME CONVENTION BETWEEN THE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC COUNTRIES, AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, AND WE HAVE ONLY RECENTLY HAD THE HONOUR OF HOSTING A JOINT MEETING OF MINISTERS IN SUVA. HERE WE HAVE AN ASSOCIATION BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH IS REALLY WORKING. OF COURSE, WE ARE NOT GETTING ALL THAT WE WANT BUT THEN, WHEN IN LIFE DO YOU GET THAT? BUT THERE ARE SCHEMES FOR PRICING OUR PRIMARY PRODUCTS AND THEIR ENTRY INTO THE COMMUNITY, THERE ARE AID AND LOAN ELEMENTS AND THERE IS THE NEW UNIQUE SCHEME FOR THE STABILIZATION OF EXPORT EARNINGS OVER A WIDE RANGE OF PRODUCTS THIS PROVIDES THAT SHOULD A COUNTRY STRIKE A BAD PATCH, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF NATURAL

DISASTER, PERHAPS THROUGH DEPRESSED PRICES, ITS AVERAGE EARNING S OVER A PERIOD FROM ANY OF THESE PRODUCTS WILL BE MADE UP TO IT. THESE ARE ALL PRACTICAL STEPS, AND MY OWN VIEW IS THAT WE WILL PROGRESS MORE SOUNDLY AND MORE QUICKLY BY BUILDING ON THESE THAN BY ENDLESS MOUTHING OF VAGUE GENERALITIES. THE UNITED STATES IS NOT INVOLVED IN THIS TYPE OF SCHEME, NEITHER IS CANADA, NOR JAPAN. IF THE MODALITIES ARE TOO DIFFICULT TO ASSOCIATE THEM DIRECTLY - AND THEY MAY WELL BE - THEY MIGHT AT LEAST FIND THE ARRANGEMENTS OF INTEREST AND OF MUTAL BENEFIT IN ANY AGREEMENTS THEY MAY MAKE WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE POSITIVE ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES AT THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR CONFERENCE IN GENEVA IS A WELCOME SIGN THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT IS ADDRESSING ITSELF FIRMLY TO PROBLEMS OF THIS KIND EVEN IF WE DO NOT NECESSARILY AGREE WITH THEIR APPROACH IN DETAIL.

ANOTHER INTERESTING FEATURE OF THE LOME CONVENTION IS THE INSTITUTION OF THE JOINT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WHICH IS NOT ONLY A CONSULTATIVE BODY BUT IS ALSO EMPOWERED BY THE CONVENTION TO TAKE DECISIONS. AND WE FOUND IN SUVA A READINESS TO TAKE DECISIONS AND ALSO A FLEXIBILITY WHICH AUGURS WELL FOR THE FUTURE.

WE HEAR A LOT THESE DAYS OF THE NORTH SOUTH DIALOGUE. HERE WE HAVE A NORTH SOUTH EAST WEST CONVENTION WHICH IS DOING PRACTICAL WORK TO BRING ABOUT REAL CHANGES IN ECONOMIC PATTERNS,
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PAGE 04 SUVA 00585 04 OF 04 110129Z

AND WHICH WILL REPAY STUDY.

AS AFAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, IT HAS BEEN PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT PRACTICAL STEP WE HAVE TAKEN AS AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY TOWARDS ASSUMING A PLACE IN THE WORLD AT LARGE. AND AT THE SAME TIME IT HAS BROUGHT AFRICA INTO THE PACIFIC AND ALSO THE CARIBBEAN IN A NEW DIMENSION.

ONCE AGAIN THERE IS THIS APPARENT DICHOTOMY. ON THE ONE HAND A RETURN TO THE LAND SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FOOD, CUSTOMARY DISCIPLINARY TRAINING, AN EMPHASIS ON REGIONALISM, WHAT MIGHT BE THOUGHT TURNING IN ON OURSELVES; ON THE OTHER INCREASED PARTICIPATION, PUSHING OF EXPORT CROPS, AND THE REACHING OUT FOR CLOSER ASSOCIATION WITH EUROPE, AFRICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. BUT WE BELIEVE THAT WE MUST BE RECEPTIVE TO ALL THAT IS BEST FROM OTHER REGIONS, OTHER ECONOMIES AND OTHER CULTURES. AND AT THE SAME TIME WE ARE CONVINCED THAT IT IS THROUGH ESTABLISHING, CONFIRMING AND STRENGTHENING OUR OWN CULTURES AND TRADITIONS THAT THE CONTRIBUTION THAT WE CAN MAKE TO SUCH ASSOCIATIONS IF OF DISTINCTIVE VALUE. DESPITE STATEMENTS TO THE CONTRARY FROM LEARNED ACADEMICS WHO HAVE CAREFULLY AND EXHAUSTIVELY STUDIED OUR BEHAVIOUR - FOR THREE WEEKS - WE BELIEVE THERE IS SUCH A THING AS THE PACIFIC WAY, AND THAT IT HAS A MEANING AND A RELEVANCE FOR TODAY.

END TEXT.

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